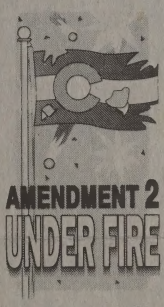
Perkins: Check schools' stance on homosexuality

By **Louis Aguilar**
Gazette Telegraph

Colorado for Family Values will encourage supporters throughout the state to examine whether their local school districts "promote homosexuality," the group's chairman, Will Perkins, said Tuesday.

That recommendation will come during a series of seminars the Colorado Springs-based author of Amendment 2 is planning. The seminars are designed as a counteroffensive against a proposal by Colorado Springs lawyer Greg Walta that would negate the amendment approved by voters in November.



Perkins said the main thrust of the meetings will be to bolster grass-roots support for Amendment 2 in light of Walta's plan, which he called a "serious threat" to the amendment that bans laws prohibiting discrimination against homosexuals based on their sexual orientation. Walta's proposed constitutional amendment would ban affirmative action and hiring quota programs for homosexuals but would give gays some protection against discrimination in the workplace, housing and public facilities. Walta has yet to begin collecting the signatures he will need to get his plan on the ballot.

Perkins believes Walta will get those signatures, "so we have to take his threat seriously," he said.

Walta was unavailable for comment Tuesday evening.

The four seminars, three of which will be held later this month, will be in Monte Vista, Lamar, Grand Junction and Fort Collins.

"We want to cover the state, create strong grass-roots groups based on local leaders we learned of in the election campaign," Perkins said.

Perkins said he would like to see Amendment 2 supporters "just take a look at their public schools."

"We don't want (homosexuality) to be promoted as an acceptable lifestyle, not by teachers or counselors saying it is OK. That's wrong," said Perkins, who added his group will not take the lead in challenging any public school policies. "But we want our supporters to see if they would like to do something," he said.

In a separate development, Perkins downplayed a story in a Denver newspaper that said Colorado for Family Values co-founder Tony Marco had blasted the group's tactic of portraying homosexuals as sexually addicted deviants. Marco left Colorado for Family Values during the election campaign.

Perkins acknowledged that Marco had sent a memo to Colorado for Family Values criticizing the group's use of a graphic anti-gay video and anti-homosexual literature during the successful Amendment 2 campaign.

Marco wrote in that memo: "You risk giving gay activists ammunition to make their charge that Amendment 2 is what they've said it is: a hateful, fear-mongering and mean-spirited piece of work. You risk arousing violent animosity toward gays, to which gay militants will react in kind, as extremists on both sides come out of the woodwork. . . . Yes, it is easier to nauseate than educate."

"Tony is a friend, but I don't know what he's talking about," Perkins said Tuesday. "All of the things we will use are, for the most part, based on ideas and facts that he used in his own presentation."

Perkins said "there isn't any shift in focus like that report tried to contend. You can't divorce the behavior from the issue."

In fact, Perkins said, the group will feature another video during the upcoming seminars that shows gay pride parades in San Francisco containing simulated sexual acts.

lls for audit agency

atorium urged

avilion.

The motion for an outside anagement audit of the Parks epartment and its director, ickey Carter, was made by oard member Allan Reid, who aid the allegation that Carter as mismanaged the department becoming a "full-blown public candal" that reflects badly on e park system.

Reid specified the audit ould include, but not be limed to, the period between Jan. 1991, and the present, a time uring which the Parks Departnent was cited by the county ealth Department, the Reional Building Department and .S. Army Corps of Engineers or working on several park rojects without proper ermits.

Last week, park employees nd the park volunteers organiation rejected an offer to be

See **COUNTY**/B6

Park debate

El Paso County park officials are recommending a 180-day moratorium on further development in Fountain Creek Regional Park. Several groups feared planned recreational fields would harm bird feeding and nesting areas located on the edge of the Cottonwood Meadows area of the park.

John Wagner/Gazette Telegraph

Jerilee Bennett/Gazette Telegraph

RELIGION

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